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P. Allen  
01/10/02

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. B0932/7154/JH

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Reuss et al.  
Serial No: 09/677,910  
Filed: October 3, 2000  
For: HIGHBACK FORMED OF MULTIPLE MATERIALS  
Examiner: Vanaman, F.  
Art Unit: 3611

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The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on November 15, 2001.

  
Rita A. LeBlanc

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

Applicants hereby provisionally elect Species I (Figs. 1-7 and 8), corresponding to claims 1-23, 27-47 and 51-63, with traverse.

**REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action letter mailed on October 15, 2001, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. The Examiner has set forth an election of species requirement between Species I (Figs. 1-7 and 8), Species II (Figs. 1-7 and 9) and Species III (Figs. 1-7 and 10). By the foregoing, Applicants have now elected Species I for examination. Claims 1-23, 27-47 and 51-63 correspond to provisionally elected Species I.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that independent claim 51 appears to be directed to Species III. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 51 and its dependent claims are directed to at least Species I.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1 and 27 are generic. Applicants believe that at least claims 1-21 and 27-45 are generic to the identified species.